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Intelligence Funds Approved

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The Senate approved, by voice vote, authorization to finance the U.S. intelligence network last night and provided new powers for background checks before issuing security clearances.

The bill was sent to a House conference committee, which has passed a companion bill.

As usual, the intelligence authorization bill did not disclose specific dollar totals for the Central Intelligence Agency, National Security Council or intelligence operations of the Defense, State and Treasury departments and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The bill would require state and local governments to provide the CIA, Defense Department and the Office of Personnel Management

with criminal records of persons under consideration for security clearances.

The federal agencies could not, however, request the information without the written consent of the person under investigation.

The Senate also adopted by voice vote an amendment by Sen. Lloyd Bentsen (D-Tex.) that would increase the FBI's budget for antiterrorist activities by \$19.5 million to \$59.5 million.

Intelligence Committee Chairman David F. Durenberger (R-Minn.) and Vice Chairman Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) assured the Senate that \$28 million in the CIA's contingency fund for aid to Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries would be spent only for humanitarian aid and disbursed through the State Department.